

Contracts, UBO/MPD key IADC interests

Advancing underbalanced operations and managed pressure drilling is a high-activity area for IADC. Vice President, Middle East and Asia, Ken Fischer, provides support for technical committees for underbalanced operations and managed pressure drilling.



Ken Fischer

UBO AND MPD

During the fourth quarter 2004, the Underbalanced Operations Committee expanded its scope of activities to include the techniques comprising managed pressure drilling, thus becoming known as the Underbalanced Operations and Managed Pressure Drilling Committee. The new name reflects the members' interest in MPD while recognizing and building upon the standards and practices developed for underbalanced drilling technology.

UB CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

During its first quarter 2005 meeting in Amsterdam, the IADC Underbalanced Operations and Managed Pressure Drilling Committee drafted revisions to the IADC Classification System for Underbalanced Wells. While the system had proven to be a comprehensive and meaningful approach, a number of questions were raised concerning the distinctions between certain risk levels. In an effort to address those questions and to prevent any misapplication of the Classification System, the Committee drafted more detailed risk level descriptions and added examples of the types of wells to be included in each level. The document title was changed to the IADC Well Classification System for Underbalanced Operations and Managed Pressure Drilling to encompass emerging MPD techniques. The revised Classification System was adopted by the IADC Board of Directors in March and is now available on the Committee's website.

The Committee continues to work on several projects, most importantly the drafting of a best practices document for underbalanced operations. The document is expected to form the basis for an API Recommended Practice and a similar document in Canada. The standards and practices adopted will influence the

implementation of the technology throughout the world.

ROTATING CONTROL DEVICES

Late last year, for the first time, a manufacturing specification drafted entirely by an IADC Committee was adopted by the American Petroleum Institute (API). The new document, designated API Specification 16RCD, covers the manufacture of rotating control devices used in underbalanced operations and managed pressure drilling. A task group formed under the auspices of the IADC Underbalanced Operations and Managed Pressure Drilling Committee was responsible for the work. The group was chaired by **John Ramalho** with **Shell EP International Ltd** and was comprised of manufacturers of the equipment as well as drilling contractor and producer members.

A second task group of the UBO & MPD Committee, chaired by **Brian Grayson** with **Weatherford**, drafted a specification for non-return valves. The document is undergoing final revision and is expected to be adopted by API. ■

Contracts Committee

IADC's Contracts Committee continues to focus on the maintenance of the model contract form. After completing extensive revisions to the forms used in US land drilling operations, the group has turned its attention to the international contracts and has begun a long-awaited revision of those forms.

In addition, the group is currently revising the IADC Standard Format for Equipment Lists (SFEL). Other elements of the bidding process are being examined to identify areas where standardization could increase efficiency for operators and contractors alike.

In order to support and manage these projects, the Committee now holds periodic meetings open to all drilling contractors. Additionally, the next Contracts and Risk Management Conference will be held in 2006, continuing the tradition of one of IADC's most successful industry events. ■